

Dear Neighbor,

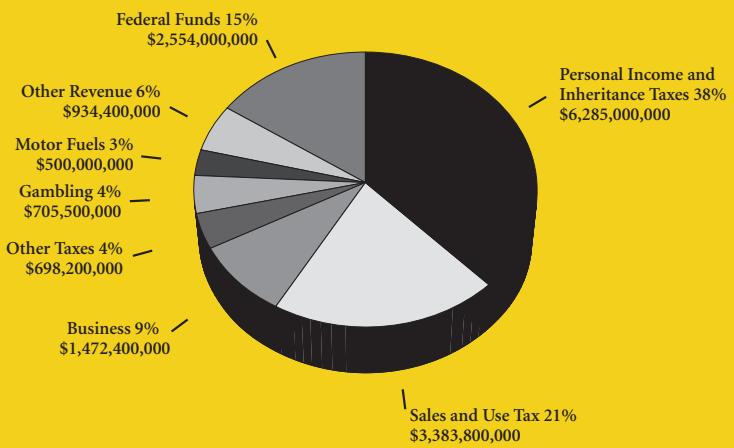
I am often asked questions on where the state derives its revenue and how it is spent. The chart below provides an overview of revenue and spending. I hope you find it informative in this regard.

Dave

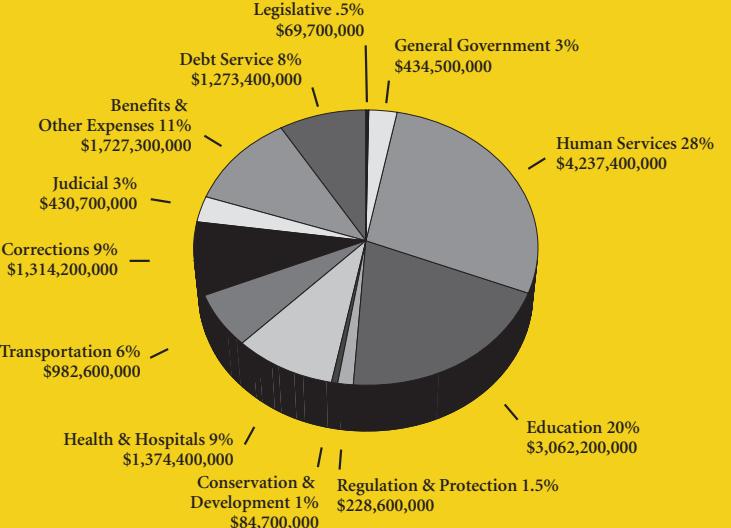
## BUDGET ENDING JUNE 30, 2006

The 2006 general fund and the special transportation fund spends \$15.2 billion.

### WHERE DOES THE MONEY COME FROM?

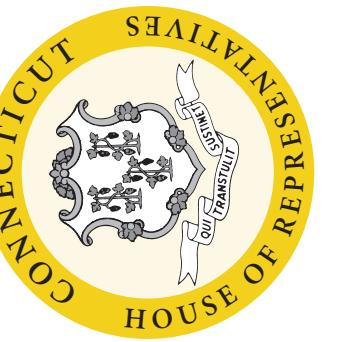


### WHERE DOES THE MONEY GO?



\*In addition to an expected surplus, the difference between expenditures and revenues is due to tax refunds.

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State Representative

**DAVID LABRIOLA**

Proudly Serving the 131<sup>st</sup> District

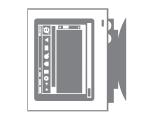
Naugatuck★Oxford★Southbury



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# 2006 LEGISLATIVE REPORT



**State Representative**  
**DAVID LABRIOLA**  
Proudly Serving the 131<sup>st</sup> District  
Naugatuck★Oxford★Southbury

**Rep. Labriola reviews pending legislation during the 2006 Legislative Session.**



**MAJOR TRANSPORTATION INITIATIVE**

**\$2.3 Billion Package Includes Funds For Local Projects**

Public Act 06-136 will provide for improvements to highways and mass transit in all corners of the state, allocating \$2.3 billion over a 10-year period. Projects to be funded include completion of the engineering and design phase of widening I-84 between Waterbury and Danbury, which serves as a major jump start to a project that will bring about a less congested, safer interstate for Western Connecticut.

Other projects that will be funded include: the restoration of commuter rail service between New Haven and Springfield, MA; the renovation of rail cars for use throughout the state and the dredging of commercial ports. It is important to note the bill does not include previous proposals for increasing the state gasoline tax or bringing back highway tolls. The package will be funded through revenue bonds.

**PUBLIC HEALTH**

**Reducing Hospital Infections**

I introduced legislation, contained in Public Act 06-142, that will help reduce infections acquired in hospitals, which can lead to serious medical problems. The legislation creates a committee to develop a mandatory reporting system for all healthcare associated infections. In addition, the report must be posted on the Department of Public Health website and be available to the public. Because this legislation establishes a detailed reporting system, it marks an excellent step toward reducing such infections.



Rep. Labriola (left), who helped secure state bond funds for the new Southbury Public Library, joins in the facility's opening in April 2006.

**EDUCATION**

**Saving For College**

The state budget package also creates a deduction on the state income tax for contributions to the Connecticut Higher Education Trust (CHET--the state-sponsored college savings plan). It will allow taxpayers to carry forward any unused deductions for five consecutive years as long as each deduction does not exceed the annual maximums, which are \$5,000 for single filers and \$10,000 for joint filers.

**SENIORS**

**Property Tax Freeze**

Public Act 06-176 allows municipalities to freeze the property taxes on homes owned by certain elderly people. To be eligible, the homeowner or his spouse must be age 70 or older and have lived in the state at least one year. The freeze continues for a surviving spouse who is at least age 62 when the homeowner dies. Homeowners must meet the same income limits as apply to the existing state-reimbursed "circuit breaker" program, which currently gives qualified homeowners age 65 or over a tax credit against the property taxes on their homes.

**Homecare Oversight**

Public Act 06-187 will help protect the interests of senior citizens by requiring companies providing homemaker or companion services to obtain a certificate of registration from the Department of Consumer Protection (DCP). It also gives DCP authority to suspend, revoke, or refuse to issue the registration or take other disciplinary measures in response to violations of the new law. Beginning October 2006, these agencies must require new employees to undergo comprehensive background checks.

**CONSUMER PROTECTION**

**Protection Against Identity Theft**

Public Act 06-60 outlaws using small scanners and reencoders to create fake credit cards. This is an ever increasing problem throughout the country and this new law is a positive step towards protecting our residents. Penalties for violating the new law include up to 10 years imprisonment, fines of up to \$10,000 or both.

**SPENDING AND TAXES**

**2006-2007 State Budget**

There were several good points in the 2006-2007 budget package. These include:

- Providing a welcome tax break. The maximum property tax credit on the state income tax, which was scheduled to rise from \$350 to \$400, will instead be raised to \$500.
- Allocating \$190 million to the Rainy Day Fund. This fund, established in the wake of enacting the state income tax in the early 1990s, played a vital role in cushioning the impact on taxpayers when the state hit difficult economic times a decade later.
- To help promote business development, it repeals the 15 percent corporation tax credit surcharge in 2007 and offers tax credits for companies that hire displaced workers and create at least 50 new, full-time jobs.
- Funding the Teachers' Retirement Fund. The budget adds \$246 million to fully fund the Teachers' Retirement System for the first time in over a decade. This will help provide security for teachers and save state taxpayers money in the long run.

**Recent Grants For Local Projects**

In addition to state grant funds for the new Southbury Public Library, I am pleased to have been able to help secure the following grants for local projects:

- \$500,000 for new road construction in and around the Woodruff Hill Industrial Park in Oxford and the adjacent Oxford-Waterbury Airport. These funds will help promote economic development in town.
- \$900,000 for renovations to the Naugatuck YMCA. This facility serves a vital role in town and the renovations will improve public access and its ability to provide important programs for our community.



Rep. Labriola meets with a member of the Connecticut National Guard at Camp Rell, which serves as an Army National Guard training facility.



Rep. Labriola presents an oversize check of state bond funds for projects in the Town of Oxford. (Left to Right) Oxford Selectman David Haversat, Rep. Labriola, Sen. Louis DeLuca and First Selectman Augie Palmer.